

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY: Make your environment safer by bringing your batteries, cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs to the town garage from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **AUGUST 26.** Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers. **INFO:** Call (219) 972-5083.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2017

HIGHLAND HEADQUARTERS

STRACK & VAN TIL

It was an historic moment in July when the descendants of Ernie Strack and his one-time delivery boy Nick Van Til made a successful bid to retake ownership of the grocery chain.

What that means for Highland is continued operations of the flagship store at Cline and 45th and headquarters three miles west.

"I couldn't be happier for everyone involved," Council President Dan Vassar said. "Strack & Van Til adds greatly to the fabric of our community. Not only do they provide quality groceries, the owners have always been committed to our town."

"I can't remember a day when Strack's wasn't here," he said. "I'm thrilled they will continue to call Highland home." 🐦



When the Strack & Van Til families and the Indiana Grocery Group beat out larger corporations to retake ownership of the family business, it had all the makings of a Frank Capra movie.

Sadly, Ultra Foods didn't make the cut. Nearly 140 employees will lose their jobs when it closes.

Highland officials are watching what happens next with the mega-grocery store and the plaza it has anchored for decades. It may be time to create a new vision for the north Indianapolis corridor.

PROMPT AMBULANCE

With a little more than four months left in the year, Gary and Shar Miller are transitioning out of the business they've been building for nearly 20 years.

Since 1998, Prompt Ambulance has grown to become Indiana's largest EMS provider.

Gary Miller is already working with the communities that helped Prompt get its start – Highland, Griffith, Munster and East Chicago – in developing a transition plan to a new pre-hospital provider or in-house service when the company ceases operations at the end of the year.

"We're leaving with mixed emotions," he said. "I'm looking forward to a break and relieving some of the stress that comes with a 24/7 business." 🐦



When Prompt shutters its ambulance service at the end of 2017, its Highland dispatch center will remain operational.

Co-owner Gary Miller said there are a number of non-EMS entities that rely on the facility.

Located in the town's industrial park, the one-of-a-kind dispatch facility tracks weather, traffic and ambulance locations in real-time.

"We'll continue dispatch operations until a buyer can be found," Miller said. "Our hope is that we transition it to a new ambulance provider."

BABE RUTH CELEBRATES SIDE-BY-SIDE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two outstanding teams. Side-by-side state championships. That's how Highland's Babe Ruth teams rolled this season.

Managers Edwin DeJesus, who coached the 15-year-old All Stars, and Sam Michel, who led the 16-18 year-olds, couldn't be prouder.

"I love this team, the coaching staff, the H and all it stands for," Michel said. "We had a great ride and are looking forward to 2018."

In post-season play, the 16-18 year-olds advanced to the final game in the Midwest Regional where they lost 3-2 in eight innings.

The All Stars won three Midwest Regional games before being bested by Ohio.

"Our league has come a long way in four years," Babe Ruth President Dan Vassar said. "I am delighted to see what these young men have been able to accomplish." 🐦



Visit highland.in.gov for championship photos. Learn more about the league at highlandbaberuth.com.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Highland Police Department is accepting applications through Sept. 1 for its next Citizens Police Academy.

The academy gives residents a taste of the intricacies of law enforcement from prevention to intervention.

Applicants must be at least 18 and a Highland resident or the owner or employee of a business in town.

The academy consists of a 10-week program that gives the public a working knowledge of police work. Classes are held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday, beginning **SEPT. 12**, in the Community Room of the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road.

Instruction includes lectures, demonstrations, tours and a ride-along with police.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Cmdr. John Banasiak or Sgt. Chris Balbo at (219) 838-3184.

APPLICATIONS: Applications may be picked up at the Police Department or downloaded from the website at highlandpolice.com.



WARD 1

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WARD 4

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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NEW MIDWEEK MUSIC & MARKET DRAWING BEBOPPERS, SHOPPERS

Combining the weekly farmer's market with the summer concert series is quickly trending on Wednesday to-do lists all over town.

Recreation Director Dave Byers is hearing positive feedback about the changes, which add another evening for folks to enjoy entertainment and shop for seasonal produce.

Merrillville Farm's Ginger Mikolics is a new-comer to the Highland market, but already loves the set-up.

"I came for the first time in mid-July to see the market and how it all works," Mikolics said.

"I loved it. I love it even more now that our produce is ripening – right on schedule."

Merrillville Farm's stand is filled to overflowing with seasonal offerings, such as tomatoes, onions, beans, pickles, watermelon and broccoli.

Beginning in September, the 500-acre farm will add brussels sprouts and cabbage along with other fall root vegetables to the mix.

"I'm a farmer's daughter who left to become a hairdresser before coming back," Mikolics said. "I love this life and enjoy caring for our crops."

"Highland's market is great," she said. "It's relaxing and filled with folks who love fresh produce and great entertainment."



MIDWEEK MUSIC & MARKET

Shop local businesses at the midweek market from 4 to 8 p.m. Bring a comfy lawn chair for the live entertainment from 5 to 7 p.m. and the summer concert series from 7 to 9 p.m. Beer garden will be available on August 30 for Polka Night. Here's the lineup:

- AUG 9:** The Influence
The Class of '68
- AUG 16:** Michelle Josephine Velez
Flat Cats
- AUG 23:** The Sky at Night
Oscar & The Majestics
- AUG 30:** David Blixt
Danny Mateja & IPA Tribute Band
- SEPT 6:** Dennis, Andrew, & Michelle
5 to 7 p.m.
- SEPT 13:** Robbing Selsdon
5 to 7 p.m.
- SEPT 20:** Dominic Ruffalo
5 to 7 p.m.
- SEPT 27:** JD Kostyk
5 to 7 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held at Lincoln Center.

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

TOWN COUNCIL NARROWS CANDIDATES FOR NEW REDEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Town Council has winnowed the list of Redevelopment Director candidates to four from a field that originally numbered 29.

If Council President Dan Vassar gets his wish, the position will be filled and a new director on the job by the end of August.

"Redevelopment is a key department in our town that needs a full-time director," Vassar said. "Former director Cecile Petro has agreed to work no more than 10 hours per week to shepherd projects forward so we don't lose momentum until her replacement is hired."

In addition to the Kennedy Avenue redevelopment area, the commission has been working

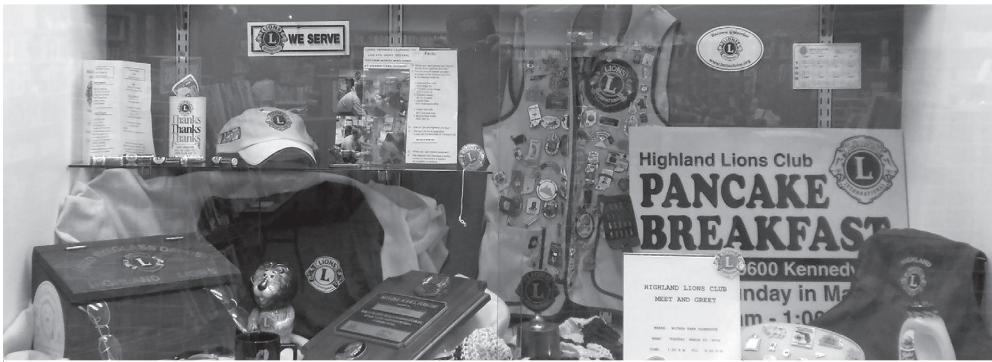
to advance an office campus/boutique hotel in south Highland and meeting with a development group that is considering building senior housing just west of downtown.

Next up: Creating a subcommittee that will include two Redevelopment Commission members and a handful of community leaders, who will interview the candidates and make a recommendation to the Council.

"I am excited about the process we are undertaking," Vassar said. "A group of quality candidates responded to notice of the job opening."

"Now, it's up to us to decide which of the finalists will be the best fit for Highland."

Community Organization Spotlight



Lions Club International is celebrating 100 years of improving the community through humanitarian work this year. The international club and the Highland chapter have made great strides in preserving eye vision and are working now to eradicate measles.

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL HELPS WHERE HELP IS NEEDED

The country was in the throes of war when a group of civic-minded residents decided what the growing community needed was an organization created to give back.

They founded a local chapter, the Highland Lion's Club, which has now served for more than 74 years to improve the community through humanitarian work.

Through the decades, long-time member Dennis Simala said the group has focused on eye health and early development speech needs, education, Christmas baskets and emergency assistance when disasters arise.

It is the generosity of the community that keeps the Lions afloat, donating during spring and fall bulb sales and donation drives at Strack and Van Til stores along with a pancake breakfast the first Saturday in May.

"We collect money and give it away," Simala said. "It's fun and gratifying to know we're making a difference in somebody's life."

Like humanitarian groups all over the country, the Highland Lions are on the hunt for new members to take the place of those retiring.

"The Lion's motto is 'We Serve,'" Simala said. "We set an agenda for the year and then meet twice a month to get it done."

"It's a great feeling when you see the help we are able to provide to someone," he said. "It is worth every minute of time I invest."



In addition to assisting with national and global initiatives, Highland Lions support:

- Identifying vision problems in preschool children
- Training dogs for the visually impaired
- Delivering Christmas baskets for the needy
- Funding for local disasters
- Scholarships for students
- Purchasing assistance for eyeglasses
- Collecting used eyeglasses to help others

INFO: To learn more about becoming a Highland Lions Club member, call Warren Benko at (219) 924-6390.



NEW PATROL VEHICLE

A newly acquired Polaris Ranger Side by Side is giving police options for accessing land previously inaccessible by motorized vehicles. Highland's Polaris was outfitted with emergency lights before patrolling the parks and bike path in late July. In addition to its off-road capabilities, the vehicle will be used in parades, special events, walks and races. Police and VIPs will have use of the vehicle.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



Veteran Police Officer Rick Hoffman has been named School Resource Officer beginning in August.

Hoffman, who became nationally certified to teach Gang Resistance Education and

Training, will be using that education as part of his work in the town's schools.

The married father of two children in the Highland schools is looking forward to fostering positive relationships with the community in his new position.

INFO: School Resource Officer Rick Hoffman can be reached at (219) 838-3184 or email rhoffman@highland.in.gov.

NEW INFORMATION OFFICER



Commander John Banasiak has been named Public Information Officer following the retirement of George Georgeff. Prior to his new position, the veteran officer served

as an instructor at the Citizens Police Academy along with his patrol duties.

As PIO, Banasiak serves as the liaison between police and the community and point person to provide information to the media.

INFO: Contact Cmdr. Banasiak at (219) 838-3184 or jbanasiak@highland.in.gov.

HHS TAILGATE PARTY

Highland Athletic Booster Club's annual tailgate includes, pizza, tacos, pierogis and BBQ. There will be a DJ, obstacle course, bounce house, football skills competition and baseball speed throw — all before the Trojans take on Morton.

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. **AUGUST 18**

WHERE: Highland High Baseball Field

FEE: \$1 per person. Minimal cost for some activities. Food available for purchase.

INFO: highlandathleticboosterclub.com

EVP® YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Taught by EVP volleyball professionals, this four-day camp concentrates on the fundamentals of volleyball to give participants a head start on the upcoming volleyball season.

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, **AUGUST 7-10**

GRADES 3-5: 1 to 3 p.m.

GRADES 6-8: 3 to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$74 residents/\$79 nonresidents

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Register now for Parks and Recreation's fall softball league. It's a 14-game round-robin season. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Highland Parks and Recreation reserves the right to place teams in the proper division. Cash awards will be given in each division!

SEASON: Runs **SEPTEMBER 10-OCTOBER 26**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

TEAM FEE: \$560 due by **AUGUST 17**

SEED MEETING: A manager's seed meeting will be held at 6 p.m. **AUGUST 23** at Lincoln Center.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

SWIM CLUB REGISTRATION

The Highland Hurricanes Swim Club, a competitive swim team for youth ages 5-18 in Highland and surrounding communities, is conducting registration for its fall/winter season, which begins Aug. 23. Birth certificate needed for registration. New members must bring a swimsuit/towel for in-water evaluation.

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. **AUGUST 16** and **21-24**

WHERE: Highland High Natatorium, 9135 Erie St.

FEE: Varies depending on age and level.

Payment plans are available.

INFO: (219) 595-9357 or highlandhurricanes.net.

FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING

Join us for this video-based, instructor-led course that teaches critical skills needed to respond to and manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac arrest emergency in the first few minutes until EMS arrive. Students receive a course completion card valid for two years.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. **AUGUST 9** and **SEPT. 12-13**

WHERE: \$45 for CPR/AED training and an additional \$10 for First Aid.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center, Room 118

INFO: (219) 595-9357 or highlandhurricanes.net.

Highland Parks & Recreation Fitness Classes

CHANNEL YOUR INNER YOGI

Hot. Cold. Young. Old. Highland Parks & Recreation has yoga classes for everyone. Yoga encourages self-esteem, concentration, body awareness and creativity with a physical activity that's non-competitive. Register online at highlandparks.org. Questions? Call (219) 838-0114.

New! Outdoor Slow-Flow Yoga

Relieve tension and restore health with relaxing exercises, breathing techniques and meditation as we commune with nature at our own Main Square Park. Bring towel, blanket or yoga mat.

6:15 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 10 – Sept. 21

Main Square Park

\$24 / \$28 / no drop-ins / off Sept. 7



Kids Yoga

Little yogis – ages 5-14 – will learn simple breathing techniques, yoga games and adventures, partner poses, songs/chants, crafts and relaxation. Please bring a towel, blanket or yoga mat.

5 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 10 – Sept. 21

Lincoln Community Center

\$30 / \$33 or \$9 / \$10 drop-ins / off Sept. 7



Hatha Yoga

Relieve tension and restore good health with relaxing exercises, breathing techniques and meditation. Bring towel, blanket or yoga mat.

Beginners: 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 9 – Sept. 20

Intermediate: 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 9 – Sept. 20

Lincoln Community Center

\$30 / \$33 or \$9 / \$10 drop-ins / off Sept. 6

